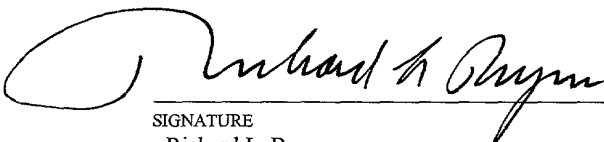


Form PTO-1390 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (REV 10-95) <b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371</b>		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>702-011472</b>
		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>09/937238</b>
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/EP00/02751</b>	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE <b>22.03.00 (22 March 2000)</b>	PRIORITY DATES CLAIMED <b>22.03.99 (22 March 1999)</b>
TITLE OF INVENTION <b>EASY-OPEN PEEL SEAL FOR FLEXIBLE PACKAGE</b>		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US <b>Mechteld G. M. RUTTEN</b>		
<p>Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ol> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ol> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</li> </ol> <p><b>Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <b>FIRST</b> preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> preliminary amendment.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WO 00/56625-Front Page with Abstract, specification, claims and drawings (13 pp.)</li> <li>International Search Report (2 pp.)</li> <li>International Preliminary Examination Report With Annex (14 pp.)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		

U.S. APPLICATION NO. <b>09/937238</b>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP00/02751		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 702-011472	
<p>17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:</p> <p><b>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):</b></p> <p>Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO..... <b>\$860.00</b></p> <p>International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)..... <b>\$690.00</b></p> <p>No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2))..... <b>\$710.00</b></p> <p>Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor International search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO..... <b>\$1000.00</b></p> <p>International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4)..... <b>\$1000.00</b></p>				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
<b>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</b>				<b>\$ 860.00</b>	
Surcharge of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				<b>\$ 130.00</b>	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	10 - 20	0	X <b>\$18.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	
Independent claims	3 - 3 =	0	X <b>\$80.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ <b>\$270.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				<b>\$ 990.00</b>	
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Small Entity Statement verified by Applicants' attorney.				<b>\$ 0.00</b>	
<b>SUBTOTAL =</b>				<b>\$ 990.00</b>	
Processing fee of <b>\$130.00</b> for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). +				<b>\$ 0.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</b>				<b>\$ 990.00</b>	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). <b>\$40.00</b> per property +				<b>\$ 0.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</b>				<b>\$ 990.00</b>	
				Amount to be Refunded	\$
				Charged	\$
<p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of <b>\$ 990.00</b> to cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>23-0650</u>. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p><b>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</b></p> <p>SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Richard L. Byrne 700 Koppers Building 436 Seventh Avenue Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1818 Telephone: (412) 471-8815 Facsimile: (412) 471-4094</p> <div> SIGNATURE Richard L. Byrne NAME <u>28,498</u> REGISTRATION NUMBER</div>					

09/937238

PATENT APPLICATION/PCT  
Attorney Docket No. 702-011472

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Mechteld G. M. RUTTEN : EASY-OPEN PEEL SEAL FOR FLEXIBLE  
PACKAGE  
International Application :  
No. PCT/EP00/02751 :  
International Filing Date :  
22 March 2000 :  
Priority Date Claimed :  
22 March 1999 :  
Serial No. Not Yet Assigned :  
Filed Concurrently Herewith :

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
September 21, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Replacement Pages accompanying the PCT International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER) show changes to the specification and claims with handwritten notations. No retyped replacement pages were provided. Under the assumption these notations are unacceptable in United States practice, this Preliminary Amendment will use as a base document the amended description which was an annex to a letter dated 5 March 2001 to the European Patent Office. The subsequent hand-written changes accompanying the IPER will be included through this Preliminary Amendment using the standard amendment practice of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please insert section headings and amend specification paragraphs as follows. (Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121, marked-up versions of the amended specification paragraphs are attached.)

On page amended page 1, after the title, at line 8, please insert the following section heading:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Before the paragraph beginning at amended page 2, line 28, please insert the following section heading:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at amended page 2, line 28 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to accomplish that objective, said engagement portion is positioned in the part of the package which is intended for enveloping the packaged product, and said convex edge is directed inwardly. This makes it possible to realise a seal while using a minimum amount of flexible material. Sufficient flexible material must be present at the location of the engagement portion, however, in order to enable the user to take hold of it with his fingers.

Before the paragraph beginning at amended page 4, line 31, please insert the following section heading:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at amended page 4, line 35 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a prior art package;

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at amended page 5, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a prior art package;

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at amended page 5, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

Figure 4 is a perspective view of another embodiment of a prior art package;

**Please insert the following new paragraph before the paragraph beginning at amended page 5, line 4:**

Figures 5 and 6 are front views of packages according to the invention; and

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at amended page 5, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

Figures 7 – 10 are front views of further embodiments of prior art packages.

**Before the paragraph beginning at amended page 5, line 9, please insert the following section heading:**

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

IN THE CLAIMS:

**Original claims 1-13 were amended during Chapter II proceedings by substituting new claims 1-11 in a letter dated May 21, 2001. Please cancel the original claims 1-13 and cancel amended claims 1-11 and rewrite them as new claims 14-23 as follows:**

14. A package of a flexible material which has been formed into an envelope, which package comprises an access opening, which is closed by means of a seal which has been formed by bonding together two or more contacting layers of the material in a particular area, which package can be opened by pulling apart two bonded-together layers of material in said area, to which end the flexible material is provided with an engagement

portion, wherein the portion of the seal area that is positioned closest to said engagement portion has a convex edge, and wherein said engagement portion is positioned in the part of the package which is intended for enveloping the packaged product, and said convex edge is directed inwardly.

15. The package according to claim 14, wherein said convex edge comprises two substantially straight edge portions, which include an angle with each other.

16. The package according to claim 14, wherein said convex edge is substantially curved.

17. The package according to claim 14, wherein said area has substantially the same width along its length.

18. The package according to claim 14, wherein the width of said area near the engagement portion is smaller than near the edges of said access opening.

19. The package according to claim 14, wherein said seal is substantially in the form of a stripe.

20. The package according to claim 19, wherein said seal is substantially in the form of a V-stripe.

21. The package according to claim 14, wherein said package substantially consists of one piece of flexible material.

22. A method for producing a package of a flexible material, wherein two or more contacting layers of the material are bonded together in a particular area, in such a manner that the package can be opened by pulling apart two bonded layers of material in said area by engaging said flexible material at the location of an engagement portion, wherein the part of the area located closest to said engagement portion is provided with a convex edge, and wherein said engagement portion is positioned in the part of the package which is intended for enveloping the packaged product, and said convex edge is directed inwardly.

23. A method for packaging a product, wherein the product is enveloped with a flexible material, wherein two or more contacting layers of the material are bonded together in a particular area, in such a manner that the package can be opened by pulling apart two bonded layers of material in said area by engaging said flexible material at the location of an engagement portion, wherein the part of the area located closest to said engagement portion is provided with a convex edge, and wherein said engagement portion is positioned in the part of the package which is intended for enveloping the packaged product, and said convex edge is directed inwardly.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

After the claims, please insert a page containing the Abstract Of The Disclosure, which is attached hereto as a separately typed page.

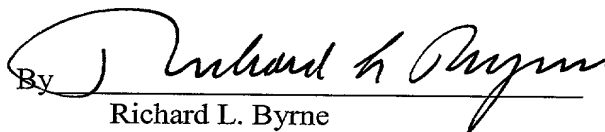
**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to place the application in conformance with standard United States patent practice.

Examination and allowance of pending claims 14-23 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

WEBB ZIESENHEIM LOGSDON  
ORKIN & HANSON, P.C.

By 

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Attorney for Applicant  
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436 Seventh Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1818  
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Facsimile: 412-471-4094

[illegible]

Figures [5] 7–10 are front views of further embodiments of prior art packages.



Annex to letter dated 5 March 2001 to the European Patent Office concerning International (PCT-) patent application no. PCT/EP00/02751 in the name of Mars B.V.

5 AMENDED DESCRIPTION

EASY-OPEN PEEL SEAL FOR FLEXIBLE PACKAGE

10 The invention relates to a package of a flexible material which has been formed into an envelope, which package comprises an access opening, which is closed by means of a seal which has been formed by bonding together two or more contacting layers of the material in a particular area, which package can be opened by  
15 pulling apart two bonded-together layers of material in said area, to which end the flexible material is provided with an engagement portion, wherein the portion of the seal area that is positioned closest to said engagement portion has a convex edge. The package  
20 usually consists of one or more layers of paper and/or plastic material, which form a container which is sealed at least at one end thereof for the purpose of being opened at that end. The seal has been formed by bonding together areas of the flexible material by heating said  
25 areas and/or interpolating an adhesive, so that an airtight seal is obtained. Usually, such a seal forms a straight, elongated strip.

30 A package of this kind may be used for packaging sweets or candy bars, for example. The package must be easy to open, for example by pulling loose the seal, with the package functioning as a container for the sweets after being opened, from which the sweets can be removed by the user.

35 The drawback of the known package is that a great deal of force must be exerted for pulling apart the bonded layers of material, and that uncontrolled movements resulting from said great exertion of force may lead to  
40 the contents falling out of the package, or that the package, once it has been opened, is no longer suitable

for use as a container, for example because it is torn.

European patent application EP 0 343 629 describes a package which is provided with a seal having a convex edge, wherein the engagement portion is positioned in an extra part of the flexible material which extends beyond said seal area, seen from the packaged product. As a result of this, the layers of material will first be pulled apart in a small part of the seal area when the seal is pulled loose, which requires relatively little force. Once said pulling loose has commenced, it can be continued in a larger part of the aforesaid area. Generally, the engagement portion can be recognized by the shape of and/or the print on the package. A drawback of the known packaging of this kind is that it needs an extra engagement portion which extends beyond the seal, seen from the packaged product, which portion is often unwanted from an aesthetic point of view and which causes extra material costs.

20

The objective of the invention is to provide a package which is easy to open with less force, and/or wherein the bonded layers can be pulled apart in a controlled manner, without the need to provide a substantial extra engagement portion to the packaging which extends beyond the seal.

In order to accomplish that objective, said engagement portion is positioned in the part of the package which is intended for enveloping the packaged product, *and said convex edge is directed inwardly.* This makes it possible to realise a seal while using a minimum amount of flexible material. Sufficient flexible material must be present at the location of the engagement portion, however, in order to enable the user to take hold of it with his fingers.

In one embodiment, said convex edge comprises two

substantially straight edge portions, which include an angle with each other. Preferably, said edge portions bound a V-shaped area. As a result of this arrangement, opening of the seal will commence in the point of the V-shape, using a minimum pulling force, and will then continue in the legs of the V-shape. In another embodiment, the convex edge is substantially curved. The remaining portion of the seal may extend in the form of a straight strip.

10

In one embodiment, said area has substantially the same width along its length, as a result of which the force required for opening the package will remain constant during said opening, which helps to have said opening take place in a controlled manner. In another embodiment, said area is wider near the edges of the access opening than near the engagement portion. This reduces the risk of the package being torn beyond the edges of the access opening upon being opened.

20

Preferably, the seal is substantially in the form of a stripe, in particular a V-stripe, also called a chevron. As a result of this, the access opening extends over a limited area, which makes the package especially suitable for use as a bag-like container after opening.

25

Preferably, the package substantially consists of one piece of flexible material. Thus, a package which is easy to produce and which provides a strong container after opening is obtained.

30

The invention also relates to a method for producing a package of a flexible material, wherein two or more contacting layers of the material are bonded together in a particular area, in such a manner that the package can be opened by pulling apart two bonded layers of material in said area by engaging said flexible material at the

35

- location of an engagement portion, wherein the part of the area located closest to said engagement portion is provided with a convex edge, wherein said engagement portion is positioned in the part of the package which
- 5 is intended for enveloping the packaged product.

- The invention also relates to a method for packaging a product, wherein the product is enveloped with a flexible material, wherein two or more contacting layers
- 10 of the material are bonded together in a particular area, in such a manner that the package can be opened by pulling apart two bonded layers of material in said area by engaging said flexible material at the location of an engagement portion, wherein the part of the area located
- 15 closest to said engagement portion is provided with a convex edge, wherein said engagement portion is positioned in the part of the package which is intended for enveloping the packaged product.

- 20 Furthermore, the invention relates to a method for opening a package of a flexible material, which package is closed by means of a seal which has been formed by bonding together two or more contacting layers of the material in a particular area, wherein the bonded
- 25 material is pulled loose, starting at a portion of the area where the edge of said area has a convex shape, and wherein the bonded material is pulled loose by engaging and pulling the package at a part which is intended for enveloping the packaged product.

30

Hereafter a number of embodiments of a package will be described by way of illustration, wherein reference is made to the drawing, in which:

- 35 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a <sup>prior art</sup> package;  
Figure 2 is a side view of the package according to Figure 1;

5

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a <sup>prior art</sup> package;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of another embodiment of

a <sup>prior art</sup> package; and

Figures 5 and 6 are front views of packages according to the invention; and  
Figures 7 - 10 are front views of further embodiments of <sup>prior art</sup> packages.

5

The drawings are essentially schematic representations, wherein like parts are indicated by the same numerals.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a package which

10 contains sweets or candy bars, which are packaged in an airtight manner therein. Figure 2 shows the same container in side view. The package consists of container 1 of plastic foil, comprising a bottom 2, four upright walls 3 and a seal 4. Seal 4 is formed by  
15 folding the upright walls 3 at their upper ends after the container has been filled with the product to be packaged, in such a manner that the ends will be in contact with each other along a straight strip, and subsequently heating the strip and/or interpolating an  
20 adhesive, after which the wall ends are bonded together by compression. Usually, seal 4 consists of four layers of material on the sides as the result of this manner of bonding, whilst it consists of two layers in its central portion.

25

The package can be opened by taking hold of it with the fingers near arrows 5, 6 and pulling in the direction of arrows 5, 6. If said pulling takes place with sufficient force, this seal will tear loose, thus opening the  
30 package.

Figure 3 and Figure 4 show in perspective view a package according to the invention. The area of seal 4 thereby has a convex V-shape, seen from the engagement portion,  
35 so that if the package is opened in accordance with that which has been discussed with regard to the package according to Figures 1 and 2, seal 4 will come loose

whilst only a small force is exerted, starting in the point of the V-shape on the upper side of seal 4, and continuing from there to the bottom of the point. Following that, said opening is continued in a controlled manner towards the ends of seal 4.

In these embodiments, the layers of flexible material extend beyond seal 4, thus forming "flaps" 7. Said "flaps" 7 function as an engagement area for opening the package, which is done by engaging the "flaps" 7 with the fingers and pulling in the direction of arrows 5, 6. It will be apparent that a relatively large force is required thereby, because a long edge of the seal is pulled loose along its entire length in one go. In the variant shown in Figure 4, said flaps are made up of a continuous strip, which extends beyond the seal.

Figure 5 is a side view of an embodiment comprising a V-shaped seal without "flaps" 7. Figure 6 shows another embodiment of a package, wherein seal 4 is made up of a substantially straight strip, and wherein an arched or curved seal portion is provided in the central part, which functions as a starting point for opening the package.

Figures 7, 8, 9 and 10 show further embodiments of a package, now provided with "flaps" 7. Furthermore, various possible embodiments of a seal are shown by way of illustration, wherein the edges of the seal area comprise arched or curved portions and straight edge portions, which include an angle with each other. As is shown in Figure 10, it is possible to combine straight edge portions and curved edge portions. The seal forms which are shown in Figures 7 - 10 are similar in that they are all convex, as a result of which opening will commence at the point located closest to the engagement portion, after which said opening will continue in a

7

controlled manner towards the ends of the seal area. It is also possible to use these seal forms in the embodiments which do not comprise "flaps", as shown in Figures 5 and 6.

5

The above-described embodiments are to be considered examples of a package according to the invention.

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## AMENDED CLAIMS

1. A package of a flexible material which has been formed into an envelope (1), which package comprises an access opening, which is closed by means of a seal (4) which has been formed by bonding together two or more contacting layers of the material in a particular area, which package can be opened by pulling apart two bonded-together layers of material in said area, to which end the flexible material is provided with an engagement portion (7), wherein the portion of the seal (4) area that is positioned closest to said engagement portion (7) has a convex edge, characterized in that said engagement portion (7) is positioned in the part of the package which is intended for enveloping the packaged product, and *said convex edge is directed inwardly.*

2. A package according to claim 1, characterised in that said convex edge comprises two substantially straight edge portions, which include an angle with each other.

3. A package according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said convex edge is substantially curved

4. A package according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said area has substantially the same width along its length.

5. A package according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the width of said area near the engagement portion (7) is smaller than near the edges of said access opening.

6. A package according to any one of the preceding



claims, characterised in that said seal (4) is substantially in the form of a stripe.

- 5 7. A package according to claim 6, characterised in that said seal (4) is substantially in the form of a V-stripe.

- 10 8. A package according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterised in that said package substantially consists of one piece of flexible material.

- 15 9. A method for producing a package of a flexible material, wherein two or more contacting layers of the material are bonded together in a particular area, in such a manner that the package can be opened by pulling apart two bonded layers of material in said area by engaging said flexible material at the location of an engagement portion (7), wherein the part of the area located closest to said engagement portion (7) is provided with a convex edge, characterized in that said engagement portion (7) is positioned in the part of the package which is intended for enveloping the packaged product, *and said convex edge is directed inwardly.*
- 20 25

- 30 10. A method for packaging a product, wherein the product is enveloped with a flexible material, wherein two or more contacting layers of the material are bonded together in a particular area, in such a manner that the package can be opened by pulling apart two bonded layers of material in said area by engaging said flexible material at the location of an engagement portion (7), wherein the part of the area located closest to said engagement portion (7) is provided with a convex edge, characterized in that said engagement portion (7)
- 35

is positioned in the part of the package which is intended for enveloping the packaged product, and *said convex edge is directed inwardly.*

~~11. A method for opening a package of a flexible material, which package is closed by means of a seal (4) which has been formed by bonding together two or more contacting layers of the material in a particular area, wherein the bonded material is pulled loose, starting at a portion of the area where the edge of said area has a convex shape, characterized in that the bonded material is pulled loose by engaging and pulling the package at a part which is intended for enveloping the packaged product.~~

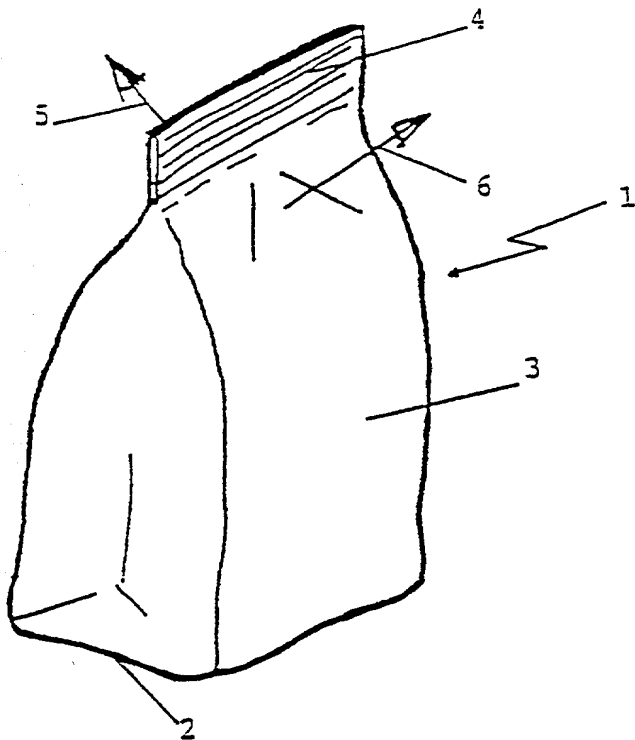


FIG. 1

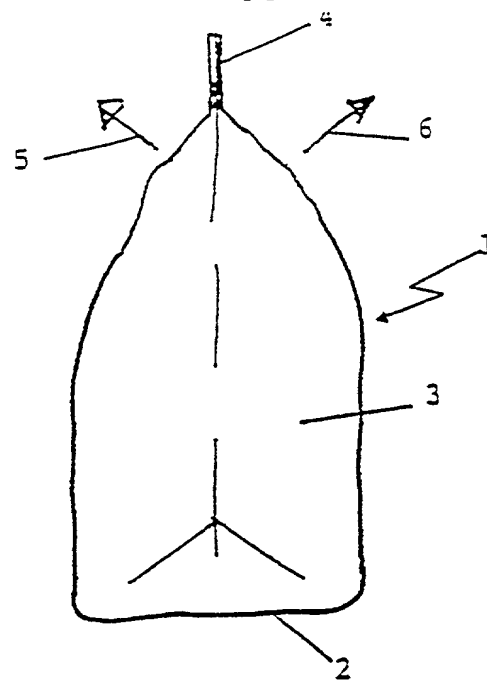


FIG. 2

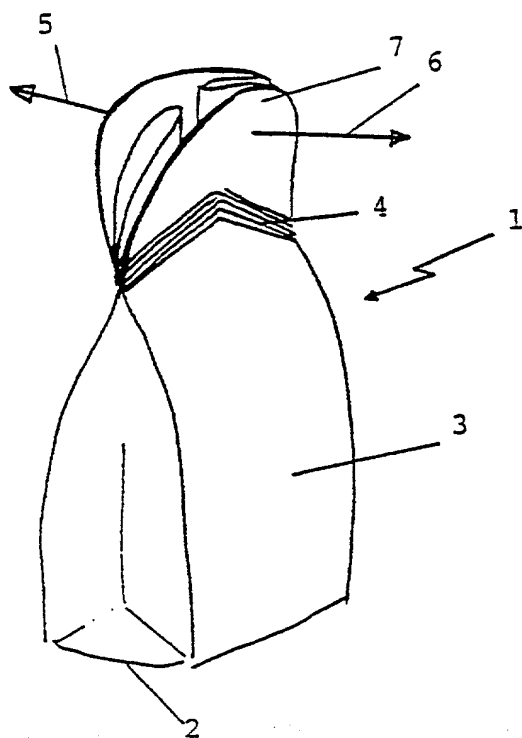


FIG. 3

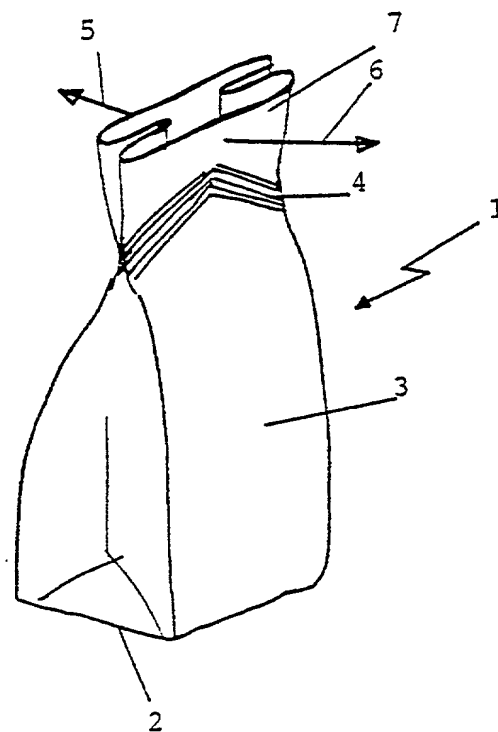


FIG. 4

2/3

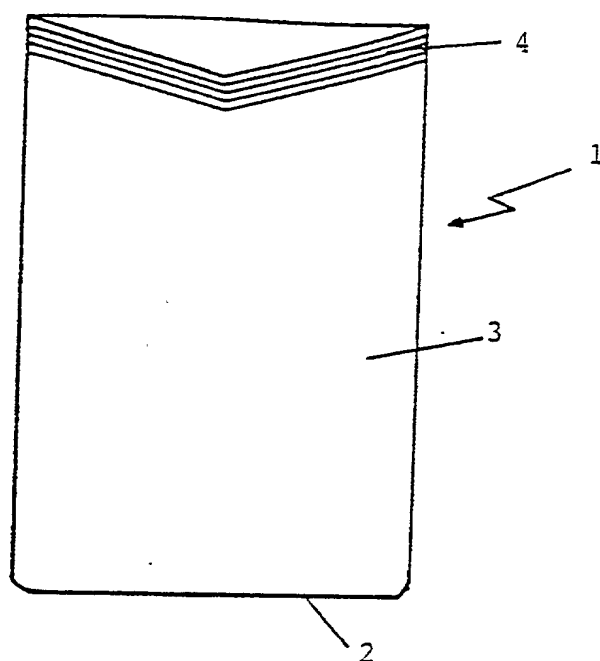


FIG. 5

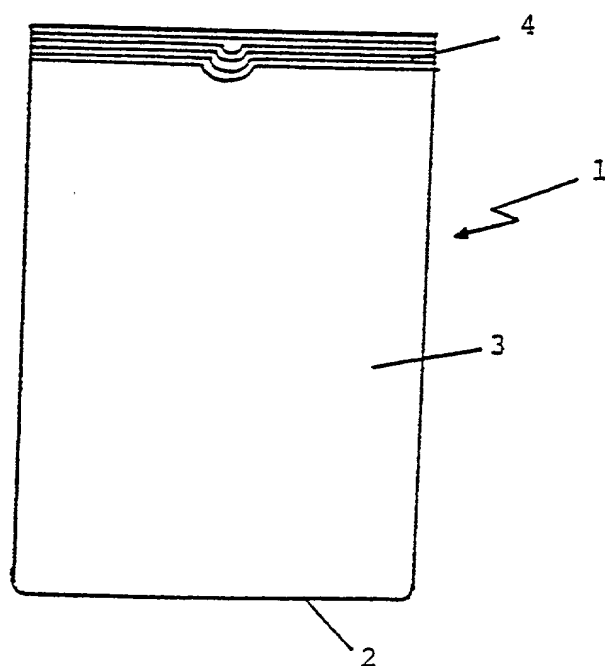


FIG. 6

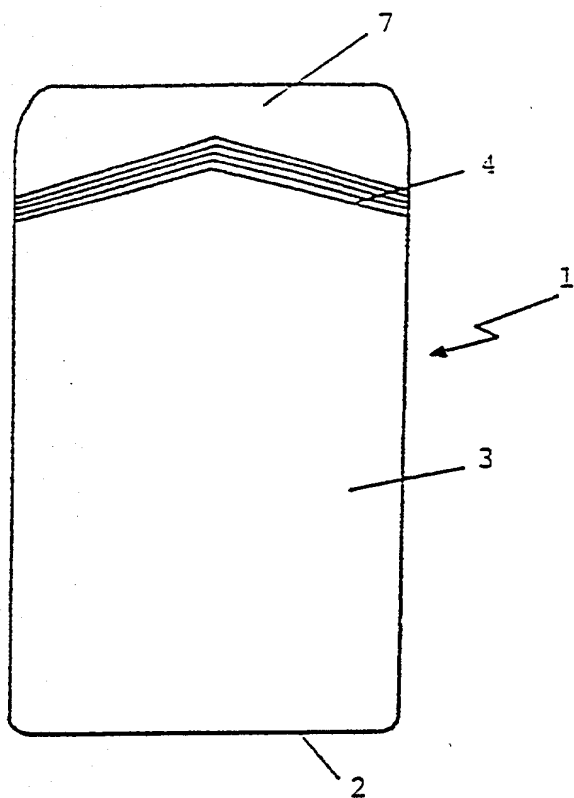


FIG. 7

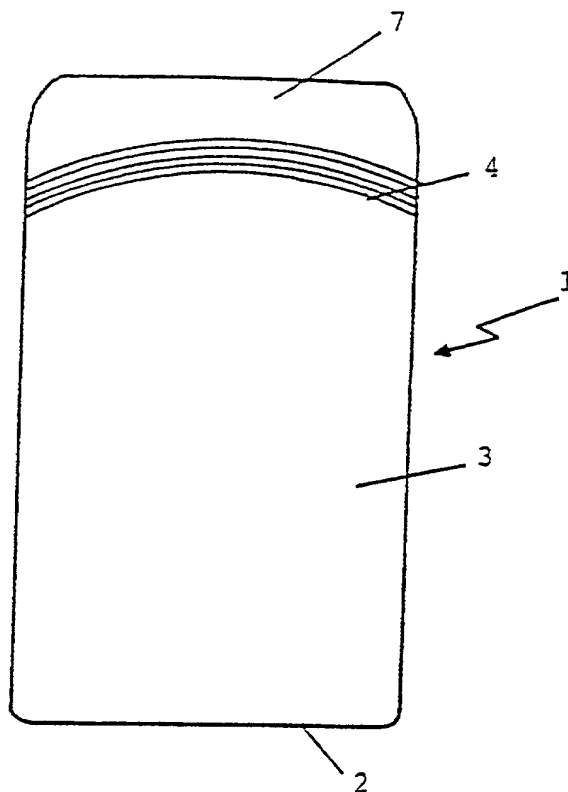


FIG. 8

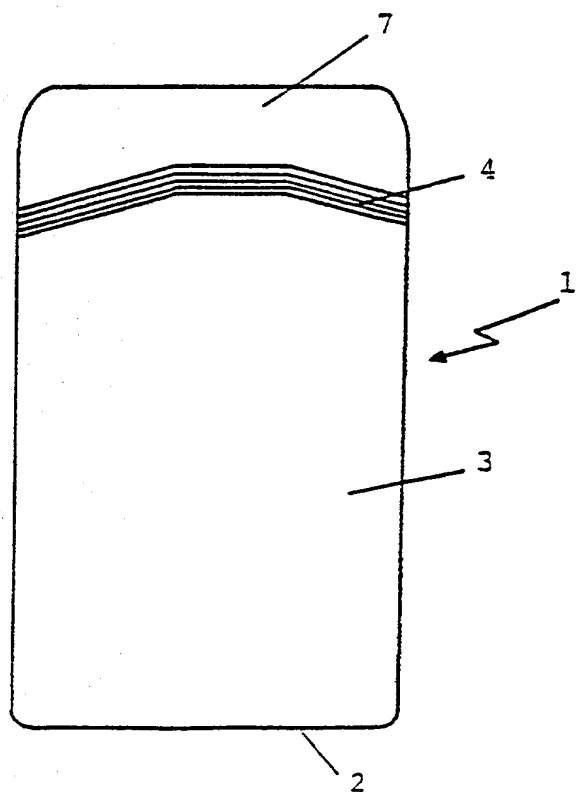


FIG. 9

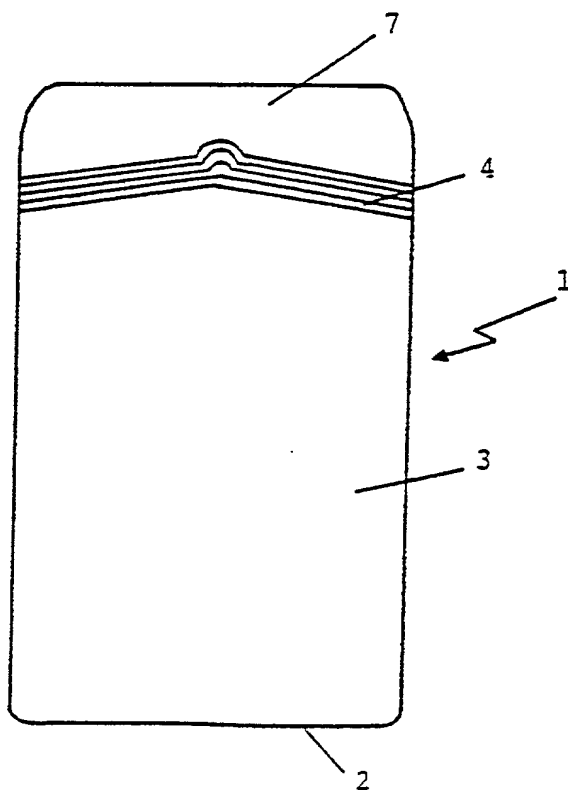


FIG. 10

# Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

## English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Easy-Open Peel Seal For Flexible Package

the specification of which

(check one)

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was received on 21 September 2001 as

Application Serial No. 09/937,238

and was amended on 21 September 2001  
(if applicable)

☐ was filed as PCT international application

No. PCT/EP00/02751 on 22 March 2000

and was amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

<u>99 200 859.9</u>	<u>European</u>	<u>22 March 1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
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(Application Serial No.)	(Filing Date)	(Status) (patented, pending, abandoned)
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

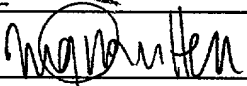
POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (list name and registration number)

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Full name of second joint inventor, if any	
Second inventor's signature	Date
Residence	
Citizenship	
Post Office Address	

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)